

HE
Appl. No. 10/507,112
September 18, 2006



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Add Figure 1 as shown on an attached new sheet of drawing.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

As required, a new sheet of drawing is attached and referred to as Figure 1 (in suitable amendments to the specification) so as to facilitate understanding of an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

As also requested, the entire specification has been reviewed and amended above so as to put it into more traditional US format.

In response to the objection to claims 21 and 22, claim 21 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and claim 22 has been cancelled so as to moot this ground of rejection/objection.

The rejection of claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully traversed.

The claims have been reviewed and amended above so as to use language more suitably directed to practical applications that produce concrete, useful and tangible results. The claims have also been amended so as to avoid any possible inadvertent reading on performance of the methodology by pencil and paper. As explained in the specification, applicant has discovered a significant improvement for use in solving optimization problems having practical application in fields such as load balancing (e.g., processor and network load balancing), scheduling optimizations (e.g., including

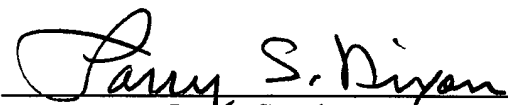
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production scheduling, resource assignments, time table scheduling, etc.) as well as
resource planning.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition
and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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